

To Grindstone Lake Property Owners:

Over the years we have all enjoyed the pristine beauty of Grindstone Lake. You may have noticed that the waters are not as clear in recent years.

There are many causes responsible for the general degradation of a lake's water clarity and quality. One is failing or failed septic systems.

Sawyer County will conduct septic inspections, at county expense, for property owner groups that obtain inspection approval from a majority of the owners. Your association seeks your opinion regarding an on-site septic system inspection of lake shore properties to ensure compliance with the Sawyer County Private Sewage System Ordinance and the Department of Commerce, Chapter 83 Private Sewage statute. Homeowners will not be charged for inspections, however upgrade expense for non-compliant septic systems is the responsibility of the property owner.

All property owners are encouraged to respond. Everyone's input and opinion are important and needed.

Please sign, date and indicate your opinion on the tear off form at the bottom of this page and return to: Grindstone Lake Association, Box 292, Hayward, WI 54843 — or give it to a lake association board member or zone chair.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue. Responses are confidential. We will keep you posted regarding the status of opinion responses.

Sincerely,
Grindstone Lake Association Board

Vote for One

_____ **I do approve** of septic system inspection of my property.

_____ **I do not approve** of septic system inspection of my property.

Name _____
(Please Print)

Signature _____

Date _____

Hayward address _____
(Fire Number and Road)

Mailing address

(Street) (State) (Zip Code)

Questions and Answers about Septic Surveys on Grindstone Lake

What is this survey now underway?

At the 2005 Grindstone Lake Association annual meeting, the members passed a motion to conduct a survey of lakeshore owners to see if they would support a process wherein Sawyer County inspects the septic systems around the lake.

Why care about septic systems?

Failing systems pollute the lake and groundwater.

Have other lakes had septic systems inspected?

Spider, Teal, Lost Land and Ghost lakes, Lac Courte Oreilles, Round and the Tiger Cat Flowage have had the inspection completed. Windigo is ready for inspection.

What conditions will determine whether Grindstone's septic systems are inspected?

All the owners on the lake will be contacted to see if they will support a septic system inspection. To move forward with the inspection, support of at least 51 percent of lakeshore owners are needed. Sawyer County and the Association would like to see a much higher level of support.

What if I don't want the survey?

Please respond and indicate that on the petition. We need to know how everyone stands. If you don't respond we will keep contacting you for a response. Your responses are confidential.

What happens if the majority support an inspection?

The Grindstone Lake Association will turn its records over to Sawyer County and will be put on a list for septic inspections. It could take two years for the inspection to begin. All owners septic systems would be inspected.

Who pays for the inspections?

In the past, Sawyer County has paid \$6,000 to fund the inspections. It is possible that due to tight budgets the Lake Association will be asked to help with the expense.

How is the inspection conducted?

An intern is trained by the Sawyer County Sanitarian to conduct the inspections. Office files pertaining to each lake owner's system are reviewed. Inspectors meet with the owners, if possible, but will proceed with the inspection if no one is at the property. Inspectors check for setbacks, seepage, and may shoot transit elevations and use an auger to check the soil.

What is a failed system?

Wisconsin Statutes 145.245 describe a failing system. Measures include sewage discharge into surface water, ground water, zones of saturation, bedrock, onto ground surface, or backup into structure.

What if I need a new system?

The owner will be notified and has a year to correct the situation. The owner pays for the new or upgraded system. Grant funds are available for residents that meet an income test.

Please help the Grindstone Lake Association by indicating whether or not you support the inspection and returning the survey.

If you have any other questions, please contact your Grindstone Lake Association Board